

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 EURE-00 /059 W
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P R 131433Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2453
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 8429

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GR
SUBJECT: DATE OF ELECTIONS STILL UNCERTAIN

REF: ATHENS 8367

1. THE MEDIA TODAY (SEPTEMBER 13) CARRIED A REPORT THAT "A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN" YESTERDAY HAD STATED THAT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WOULD BRIEF POLITICAL LEADERS ON THE GOG'S VIEWS CONCERNING THE ELECTORALISSUE AS SOON AS HE HAS RECOVERED FROM HIS CURRENT ATTACK OF SCIATICA. THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT MR. CARAMANLIS HAD PREVIOUSLY (I.E., A LITTLE OVER THREE WEEKS AGO) MADE AN "UNEQUIVOCAL" STATEMENT TO UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA) LEADER ILIAS ILIOU TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT WISH TO BE BOUND AS TO THE TIMING OF THE ELECTIONS, BUT PLEDGED NOT TO "SUPRISE" THE OPPOSITION PARTIES IN THIS RESPECT. IT HAD BEEN HOPED, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED, THAT THIS STATEMENT WOULD QUELL FURTHER SPECULATION, BUT THE "HYPOCRITICAL VERBIAGE" ABOUT ELECTIONS WAS CONTINUING (IN THE PRESS AND FROM THE OPPOSITION). THEREFORE, HE SAID, THE PRIME MINISTER INTENDS TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH PARTY LEADERS

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AS SOON AS HE RECOVERS TO GIVE THEM THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE MATTER.

2. THE MEETING WHICH WE UNDERSTOOD HAD BEEN SCHEDULED WITH PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADER MAVROS FOR YESTERDAY (REFTEL) DID NOT MATERIALIZE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE LEARNED ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE UNDERWAY TO SCHEDULE AN EARLY

CARAMANLIS-MAVROS MEETING.

3. COMMENT: ONECONSIDERATION WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER IS TAKING QUITE SERIOUSLY INEXAMINING THE DESIRABILITY OF CALLING EARLY ELECTIONS IS THE PROVISION IN ARTICLE 41 OF THE CONSTITUTION (UNDER WHICH HE IS LIKELY TO CONVOKE ELECTIONS) WHICH REQUIRES THAT THE GOVERNMENT JUSTIFY SUCH ACTION. ALTHOUGH MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT CAN DO SO BY CITING CYPRUS OR THE AEGEAN DISPUTE AS THE "NATIONAL ISSUE OF EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE" MENTIONED IN ARTICLE 41, OTHERS ARGUE THIS WOULD STRAIN THE GOVERNMENT'S CREDIBILITY SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW OR RECENT DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN EITHER ISSUE.

MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GR, (CARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE), (ILIOU, ILIAS)
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